

# - DEFERRED COMPENSATION ISSUE -



# pRide



SPRING, 2001

THE NEWSLETTER BY AND FOR

RHODE ISLAND STATE EMPLOYEES

## Reviewing Investments in a Volatile Market

"How are your stocks doing? How is the market treating you? Wherever and whenever investors meet, these questions now serve as a common form of greeting.

Since the beginning of the year, the stock market has changed markedly. From the unprecedented heights of the last decade's bull markets, to the presently wildly fluctuating market, cautiously referred to as "the beginning signs of a bear market", it has been a wild ride.

Whether bear or bull however, the recent market performance suggests that a review of investments is in order.

Traditionally, stocks are more likely to rise and fall sharply in price compared to other investments because they are more volatile. But for longer-term investors, this volatility works in their favor because long term stock returns have been higher than for other types of investments.

### What to do in a falling market?

**Diversify** - Place your money in a variety of investments. Which ones depends on your investment timeline and risk tolerance. Being reliant on a single security or even a single fund, places the investor entirely at the mercy of the market and the economic factors that affect that single investment.

**Review your investment strategy** - Once a year (more often in a volatile market), review your investments - your retirement plan and other investments, to determine how market performance may be affecting your asset allocation strategy. For example, if you find strong performance in one category, it may signify that your total portfolio is more aggressive or conservative than you are comfortable with. Make the necessary adjustments.

How you react to market activity is your own decision, resting basically on your own circumstances and your own ability to ride out market highs and lows.

But you need not make these decisions alone. Contact your investment services representative with questions about your investment portfolio.

## State Employees Art Show - An Annual Favorite



Angelo "Coke" Colacone

The Annual State Employees Art Show, held in February and March, presented works of more than forty active and retired employees. Always one of the most popular exhibits of the Atrium Gallery at One Capitol Hill (in the lobby of the William E. Powers State Administration Building, across from the State House), this year's show was no exception in generating admiring viewers and comments. The show is an annual feature - this was its fourth year - and gives state workers an opportunity to publicly display their artistic talent, many for the first time.

Dr. Robert Carl, Director of Administration, presided over a special noontime ceremony in the Atrium Gallery to present awards for artistic excellence, under three categories: 2001 Best in Show, the Governors Award and a People's Choice Award. The People's Choice Award is given to works receiving the most votes from gallery visitors. This year's award winners were: **Chung-Mien Tien**, from the Division of Taxation, DOA, who received both the Best in Show and the People's Choice awards for his air brush paintings; and **Vincent Flood**, Statewide Planning Program, DOA, who received the Governor's Award for his landscape photograph.

For the first time, this year's State Employee Art Show was dedicated to a former state employee, **Angelo "Coke" Colacone**, who worked as an urban planner for 28 years in the former RI Department of Community Affairs and the RI Department of Administration, retiring in 1989. The state employee's exhibit depends on volunteers to hang and remove the exhibit. Mr. Colacone was among a small cadre of former state employees who regularly volunteered to participate in this task. During the hanging of the show each year "Coke" could usually be found carrying the heaviest paintings or at the top of a ladder positioning the largest pictures. His enthusiasm was always a major contribution in making an otherwise arduous task enjoyable. His untimely death last year saddened those who knew him and he will certainly be remembered and sorely missed by the art show "retirees hanging crew".

The Atrium Gallery is a joint project of the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts and the Rhode Island Department of Administration. The gallery is open weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Special Deferred Compensation

- Benefit Fair -

June 11 & 12 - 9 a.m. to 12 noon  
Regan Conference Center - MHRH



**pRide**, the State Employees' newsletter, is published by the Rhode Island Department of Administration, William E. Powers Building, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908-5860. 222-2200

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## Rhode Island Department of Health

### Safe and Healthy Lives in Safe and Healthy Communities

To: All State Employees  
From: Dr. Patricia A. Nolan  
Director of Health  
Subject: A new tool for quitting smoking

Take advantage, now, of a **FREE** internet quit smoking website for yourself or pass it on to a loved one or friend who smokes. Not just ready yet? Bookmark <http://www.trytostop.org> for another time.

[www.trytostop.org](http://www.trytostop.org) is a partnership between the Rhode Island Department of Health and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. It's all about having a healthier and more prosperous state by helping smokers quit. This could be the thing that works for you!

Here's all you need to do:

1. Ready to quit smoking . . . type in <http://www.trytostop.org>.
2. Want to help a friend, loved one or co-worker . . . pass the web site address on.
3. Want to save this for the future . . . bookmark <http://www.trytostop.org>

I hope you find this a useful tool.

## Women of the Year Awards Announced

The Rhode Island Commission on Women (RICW) has selected **Ann Claire Assumpico** of Coventry and **Ruth Barge Thumbzen** of Newport as the recipients of the 2001 RICW Women of the Year Awards. The Women of the Year Awards are presented to Rhode Island women who have demonstrated a commitment to the mission of the RICW. In addition to their outstanding professional achievements, both women have assumed leadership roles in their communities and worked toward the advancement of women and girls in Rhode Island. The awards were presented at the Women of the Year dinner and reception held in their honor May 10, 2001, at the Providence Marriott.

RI State Trooper Ann Claire Assumpico was honored for her professional accomplishments in a nontraditional role. A twenty-four year veteran of law enforcement, Trooper Assumpico was the first female state trooper on the Quick Response Team. She was also the first female to be a defensive tactics and certified firearms instructor. Earlier, she has been the first woman on the Adult Correctional Institution and Coventry Police SWAT Teams. In 1996, Trooper Assumpico was

recognized as one of the Rhode Island heroes chosen by a United Way Panel of judges to carry the Olympic torch through the state on its way to Atlanta.

Ruth Barge Thumbzen was recognized for her extraordinary commitment and involvement with creating opportunities for the advancement of women and girls. An educator in the Newport School System for over thirty years, she has demonstrated a dedication to her students that extends far beyond the classroom walls. Ms. Thumbzen created Project Better Way, a mentoring program for sixth-grade girls, which provides them with encouragement and support through their middle and high school years. Her first group of participants in this program are now college juniors. Ms. Thumbzen also founded Bridge to Success, which provides tutoring, support programs and college scholarships for minority high school students.

Traditionally a major fundraiser for the RICW, the proceeds from this year's Women of the Year Awards Dinner will benefit the Rhode Island Women Veteran's Memorial to be constructed at the Rhode Island Veterans Cemetery in Exeter. The memorial, designed by Anne Mimi Sammis, will commemorate the courageous and patriotic spirit of Rhode Island women who have served in all branches of the Armed Forces.

## RI Women Veterans Memorial Project

Jeannine.Vachon@ri.ngb.army.mil  
(401) 275-4132  
645 New London Avenue  
Cranston, RI 02920



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SGT (ret) USMC  
WWII

Evelyn G. Cohen  
US Coast Guard  
WWII

Dear Supporter,

We need help! We are raising funds for the Rhode Island Women Veterans' Memorial to be dedicated at the Rhode Island Veterans Cemetery, Exeter, RI in November 2002. This monument will represent all Rhode Island women who served in our military. There are over 4,500 women living in Rhode Island today who have served to protect our country. There are many more women who are serving on active duty today and are living and stationed here in Rhode Island.

The Rhode Island Women Veterans' Memorial project is intended to commemorate women veterans and active duty military women who served in branches of the Armed Forces; Navy, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Air Force, National Guard and Reserves; women who have served in wartime as well as peacetime service.

We are asking for your financial assistance. Please consider a "tax-deductible" contribution to accomplish this endeavor. Your generous donation will ensure that our women veterans are properly recognized and saluted in the best tradition of the military services.

Your financial support will demonstrate the goodwill of the people of the State of Rhode Island. Enclosed is a self-addressed envelope; please make your check payable to:

### THE RHODE ISLAND WOMEN VETERANS MEMORIAL


If you have any further questions about this project, please contact me at (401) 275-4132. Thank you for your support in this worthwhile project.

Respectfully,

LTC Jeannine Vachon  
Chairperson  
RI Women Veterans Memorial Project

"Nor shall their story be forgot  
While fame her record keeps"





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## OTD Training Courses

Summer 2001

	Fee
July	
10 Refining Business and Technical Writing Skills	\$40
11 Introduction to Personal Computers	40
13 GroupWise Level II	70
24 Introduction to PowerPoint	65
25 CPR	35
26 Introduction to Access	65
August	
1 Writing for Meetings	20
7 Introduction to Access	65
14 Access Level II	65

For more information call the Office of Training and Development (OTD) at 222-2877. For hearing impaired TDD 222-6144.

## Summer Brown Bag Informational Series

This is a series of 5 informational mini-workshops for all employees on issues related to the impact of interpersonal violence in our society. Some topics relate to the workplace, some to parenting or caregiving – all are pertinent to staying safe in the world today. Mini-workshops are FREE of charge. Bring your lunch and come to some – or all – of this new series. All programs are 12 noon to 1 p.m.

CALL TO REGISTER.

1. July 12 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE HOME AND AND ITS IMPACT ON THE WORKPLACE. Information for workers and managers/ supervisors about Domestic Violence and its effects on workers and workplace safety.
2. July 19 KEEPING YOUR CHILDREN SAFE. Information for parents and caregivers of young children about sexual safety and staying alert and aware.
3. July 26 CHILDREN AND THE EFFECTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. Information for parents and people working with children about the effects of violence in the home on children who witness.
4. Aug. 2 SEXUAL SAFETY FOR ADULTS. Information for workers, managers and supervisors about reducing the worker's risk of sexual assault in the community and at the office.
5. Aug. 23 KEEPING YOUR TEENS SAFE FROM DATE VIOLENCE. Information for parents and people working with teens about helping teens stay alert to signs of inappropriate behavior and what to do if they are victimized.

Trainer: Elda M. Dawber, LICSW

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Diversity

H  
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O  
D

Department of Administration  
One Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02908-5860  
(401) 222-2200, Fax (401) 222-6229  
Email: bdwyer@doa.state.ri.us

Volunteers Needed for HROD to Work with the State Diversity Program.

Various assignments are available.  
Assignments are on personal time.  
Assignments may be done from your home.

Contact us for more information.

## History of A New Leaf A New Paradigm for Rehabilitation

A New Leaf was incorporated in September 1983 with assistance from East Bay Mental Health Center, to provide a supported workplace for people with persistent mental illness. A Contract Grant from the State of Rhode Island Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals enabled the doors to open.

Initially housed in a small store front on Ives Street in Providence, A New Leaf provided 871 hours of work for six people. Retail sales were under \$10,000. Very quickly, it became apparent that many people with chronic and persistent mental illness were eager to enter the job market, but needed additional support in order to do so. Retail sales needed to grow, and a move was made.

A New Leaf leased space at Davol Square for many years. This Point Street location is where A New Leaf began its campaign to publicize its non-profit supported work status to the general public and surrounding businesses. We continued to outreach into the community by initiating a plant maintenance program establishing accounts to care for plants in various business locations. This program helped to bring in additional revenue and employees enjoyed this new challenge.

In September 1988, Rhode Island was rated number one in the country in the care of people with serious mental illness by Ralph Nader's Health Policy Research Group. Clearly, innovative programs such as A New Leaf had contributed to this distinction.

The Rhode Island Governor's Council on Mental Health presented A New Leaf the 1989 Achievement Award for Innovation and Commitment in Providing Work: The Key to the Future for People Served in the Rhode Island Mental Health System.

With assistance from Rhode Island Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals and the Providence Economic Development Corporation, A New Leaf purchased property where it presently operates from. This Gano Street location was an excellent move.

A Charitable Grant from Citizen's Financial Group allowed for the purchase of A New Leaf's first van. This is how our Interior Landscape Plant Maintenance Division was developed.

In 1996 the Board of Directors of the Mental Health Association of Rhode Island presented the Community Partnership Award to A New Leaf for its role in the advocacy of "May is Mental Health Month" and promotion of the "Message of Hope Bouquets".

Currently, it takes thirty employees working 21,000 hours per year to run the store. Retail sales have exceeded \$230,000 this year and we continue to grow. We are moving closer and closer to the original goal of becoming a self-sustaining business.

A New Leaf now has three employees recently trained and certified job coaches, these employment specialists have spurred new training programs and have truly added to our success. Many of our employees have gone on to valuable employment opportunities including retail and human service areas. In the case of some employees A New Leaf is the place of choice for permanent employment.

We continually strive to remove the stigma attached to mental illness and prove with our statistics that people can be employable and successful if just given a chance.

### CORRECTION

To obtain more information on Executive Orders or to obtain copies, call the Office of the Executive Counsel at 222-2080, Extension 216 or 258.